

May 29, 2007

The Honorable Michael Mauro  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Building  
L O C A L

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit Senate File 601, an Act relating to state and local finances by providing for funding of property tax credits and reimbursements, by making, increasing and reducing appropriations, providing for salaries and compensation of state employees, providing for tax credits, providing for fees and penalties, and providing for properly related matters, and including effective date provisions. Senate File 601 is approved this date, with the exceptions noted below, which I hereby disapprove.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 28 in its entirety. I am unable to approve this item because it requires the Supreme Court to submit a detailed listing of requested increases in salaries of all judges and magistrates annually before December 1. This designated language runs counter to budget guidelines which ask that departments or agencies not include salary increases in their budget requests. Furthermore, this provision could impact the collective-bargaining process by requiring the Supreme Court to submit salary changes prior to the completion of collective bargaining.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 42 in its entirety. This provision appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund for a Fiscal Year 2007 supplemental appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for a feasibility study on the use of plasma arc technology for the disposal of solid waste. I recommend that an application for funds for such a study be made through the Iowa Power Fund because it is important to determine the feasibility of plasma arc technology. The Iowa Power Fund Board needs to provide the proper due diligence to review this and other technologies to fulfill its mission to expand sources of alternative energy.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 43 in its entirety. This provision requires the director of a department or state agency who is subject to a requirement to develop a telecommuter employment policy to also develop such a policy and plans in conjunction with representatives of the collective bargaining units of the affected employees. Departmental telecommuting policies and procedures have been in place

for several years and are well established. I will direct the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Management to review the current state government telecommuting policy and make recommendations for any improvements as part of our overall executive branch strategic planning process.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 48 in its entirety. This provision increases the Department of Transportations' operations budget by \$16,800. This additional funding is no longer needed by the Department of Transportation.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 49 in its entirety. This provision increases the appropriation for the Department of Transportations' operations budget by \$103,200. This additional funding is no longer needed by the Department of Transportation.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 56 in its entirety. This provision creates a standing appropriation for the World Food Prize of \$1,000,000 annually. While I strongly support the World Food Prize, I do not believe this appropriation should be a standing appropriation not subject to annual review. This appropriation should be reviewed annually during the budgetary process. Further, I would encourage greater private sector contributions for this program.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 57 in its entirety. This provision statutorily creates the World Food Prize Youth Institute. While I strongly support this program, it is already in existence and does not need to receive statutory commitment.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 59 in its entirety. This designated provision expands the Community Attraction and Tourism Program from Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2013 and raises the maximum multi-year commitment to an applicant from \$4 million to \$6 million. Despite this designated language, the Community Attraction and Tourism Program is still authorized for another three years with a total remaining appropriation of \$36 million. I strongly support attracting tourism to our state and want to work with community and business leaders and the Legislature to develop improvements to this program or create a new program before the current program expires in Fiscal Year 2010. I am unable to support a new commitment for additional out-year spending until I have been able to evaluate this program more fully. Furthermore, I do not believe the maximum multi-year commitment to an applicant should be increased because it would reduce the number of projects and communities that can participate in this program.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 80 in its entirety. This provision specifies that the reimbursement rate for use of personal vehicles while on state

business must fall within a range of not less than 90.0% or more than 110.0% of the maximum allowable under the federal Internal Revenue Service rules. I believe the authority to determine this rate should remain with the Director of the Department of Administrative Services, and this language would establish a large unfunded mandate on state agencies. I also do not want to set the precedent of making a statutory tie to federal rates and remove this matter from the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services. I recognize the impact that rising fuel costs have on state government employees, and I will direct the Director of the Department of Administrative Services to develop more effective policies to encourage state government employees to use fuel-efficient state vehicles more frequently.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove of the designated items in accordance with Article III, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa. All other items in Senate File 601 are hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

Chester J. Culver  
Governor

CJC: rco